

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1           1.       (original): A system for providing flexible message-based  
2       communications over a centralized messaging infrastructure, comprising:  
3               a controller to process a plurality of symmetric digital voice messages; and  
4               a voice message server to centrally transact one or more voice message  
5       sessions over a digital data network, comprising:  
6               a message queue to transiently store each such digital voice  
7       message; and  
8               a queue manager to logically interconnect a plurality of devices by  
9       routing each transiently stored digital voice message between the interconnected  
10      devices.
- 1           2.       (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
2               a session manager to manage each voice message sessions, comprising:  
3               an authentication component to process an operation by at least  
4       one such device selected from the group comprising at least one of a sign-in and a  
5       sign-out; and  
6               a message router to perform store-and-forward processing of the  
7       transiently stored digital voice messages.
- 1           3.       (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
2               a security manager to provide security between the voice message sessions  
3       by authenticating each such device into the voice message session.
- 1           4.       (original): A system according to Claim 1, wherein the devices are  
2       grouped in a relationship selected from the group comprising one of a one-to-one,  
3       one-to-many and many-to-many.

1           5.       (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
2           a session manager to form a plurality of voice message sessions, wherein  
3       each such voice message session comprises one or more discussion groups,  
4       further comprising:  
5               a database manager to associate an identifier selected from the  
6       group comprising at least one of a user identifier and a discussion group identifier  
7       with each such digital voice message; and  
8               a message router to provide logical participation in a plurality of  
9       such discussion group through routing the digital voice messages by identifier.

1           6.       (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
2           a storage device to persistently store each such digital voice message.

1           7.       (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
2           a voice processing component to process analog voice into the digital  
3       voice messages.

1           8.       (original): A system according to Claim 7, further comprising:  
2           a speech recognition component to transcribe the digital voice messages  
3       using the device.

1           9.       (original): A system according to Claim 7, further comprising:  
2           a speech recognition component to transcribe the digital voice messages  
3       using a proxy voice server interfaced to the device over a voice network.

1           10.      (original): A system according to Claim 7, further comprising:  
2           a speech recognition component to transcribe the digital voice messages  
3       using translation logic integrated into the device.

1           11.      (original): A system according to Claim 7, further comprising:  
2           a voice communications interface to concurrently transact voice  
3       communications over a voice network relative to the voice message session.

- 1           12.   (original): A method for providing flexible message-based  
2   communications over a centralized messaging infrastructure, comprising:  
3           processing a plurality of symmetric digital voice messages; and  
4           centrally transacting one or more voice message sessions over a digital  
5   data network, comprising:  
6           transiently storing each such digital voice message; and  
7           logically interconnecting a plurality of devices by routing each  
8   transiently stored digital voice message between the interconnected devices.
- 1           13.   (original): A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:  
2   managing each voice message sessions, comprising:  
3           processing an operation by at least one such device selected from  
4   the group comprising at least one of a sign-in and a sign-out; and  
5           performing store-and-forward processing of the transiently stored  
6   digital voice messages.
- 1           14.   (original): A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:  
2   providing security between the voice message sessions by authenticating  
3   each such device into the voice message session.
- 1           15.   (original): A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:  
2   grouping the devices in a relationship selected from the group comprising  
3   one of a one-to-one, one-to-many and many-to-many.
- 1           16.   (original): A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:  
2   forming a plurality of voice message sessions, wherein each such voice  
3   message session comprises one or more discussion groups, further comprising:  
4           associating an identifier selected from the group comprising at  
5   least one of a user identifier and a discussion group identifier with each such  
6   digital voice message; and

7 providing logical participation in a plurality of such discussion  
8 group through routing the digital voice messages by identifier.

1 17. (original): A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:  
2 persistently storing each such digital voice message.

1 18. (original): A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:  
2 processing analog voice into the digital voice messages.

1 19. (original): A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:  
2 converting analog voice signals into the digital voice messages using the  
3 device.

1 20. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 18, further  
2 comprising:  
3 ~~transcribing~~ transcribing analog voice signals into the digital voice  
4 messages using a proxy voice server interfaced to the device over a voice  
5 network.

1 21. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 18, further  
2 comprising:  
3 ~~transcribing~~ transcribing analog voice signals into the digital voice  
4 messages using translation logic integrated into the device.

1 22. (original): A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:  
2 concurrently transacting voice communications over a voice network  
3 relative to the voice message session.

1 23. (original): A computer-readable storage medium holding code for  
2 performing the method according to Claim 12.

1 24. (original): An apparatus for providing flexible message-based  
2 communications over a centralized messaging infrastructure, comprising:

3 means for processing a plurality of symmetric digital voice messages; and  
4 means for centrally transacting one or more voice message sessions over a  
5 digital data network, comprising:

6 means for transiently storing each such digital voice message; and  
7 means for logically interconnecting a plurality of devices by means  
8 for routing each transiently stored digital voice message between the  
9 interconnected devices.

1 25. (currently amended): A system for providing flexible message-  
2 based communications with personal communication devices over a centralized  
3 messaging infrastructure, comprising:

4 a plurality of personal communication devices to originate digital voice  
5 messages comprising digitized voice;

6 a voice message server to communicatively interface to the one or more  
7 personal communication devices over a digital data network; and

8 a queue manager to centrally process the digital voice messages,  
9 comprising:

10 a receiver to receive each digital voice message from at least one  
11 such personal communication device;

12 a message queue to transiently store the digital voice message; and

13 a sender to send the digital voice message to at least one such  
14 personal communication device identified in the digital voice message.

1 26. (original): A system according to Claim 25, further comprising:

2 a database manager to interface to a plurality of databases, comprising:

3 a user and discussion group database to store session information;

4 a personal information database to store personal information;

5 a control module to provide an interface authenticating at least one  
6 personal communication device against the personal information; and

7 a queue manager to stage each such digital voice message and to forward  
8 the digital voice message based on the session information.

9           27.   (original): A system according to Claim 25, further comprising:  
10           a proxy message server to communicatively interface a personal  
11   communication device with the voice message server.

12           28.   (original): A system according to Claim 25, further comprising:  
13           a cellular telephone to integrate with at least one such personal  
14   communication device.

1           29.   (original): A system according to Claim 25, wherein the one or  
2   more personal communication devices further comprise:  
3           a voice message module to digitize the voice messages;  
4           a message storage module to store transient voice messages, comprising:  
5                 a buffer to assemble outgoing voice messages;  
6                 a message queue to transitorily store the outgoing voice messages;  
7   and  
8                 a message store to persistently store saved voice messages.

1           30.   (currently amended): A method for providing flexible message-  
2   based communications with personal communication devices over a centralized  
3   messaging infrastructure, comprising:  
4           originating digital voice messages comprising digitized voice through a  
5   plurality of personal communication devices;  
6           communicatively interfacing the one or more personal communication  
7   devices over a digital data network; and  
8           centrally processing the digital voice messages, comprising:  
9                 receiving each digital voice message from at least one such  
10   personal communication device;  
11                 transiently storing the digital voice message; and  
12                 sending the digital voice message to at least one such personal  
13   communication device identified in the digital voice message.

1           31.   (original): A method according to Claim 30, further comprising:

2           interfacing to a plurality of databases, comprising:  
3                   maintaining a user and discussion group database to store session  
4 information;  
5                   maintaining a personal information database to store personal  
6 information;  
7           providing an interface authenticating at least one personal communication  
8 device against the personal information; and  
9           staging each such digital voice message and to forward the digital voice  
10 message based on the session information.

11           32.   (original): A method according to Claim 30, further comprising:  
12                   communicatively interfacing a personal communication device with the  
13 voice message server through a proxy message server.

14           33.   (original): A method according to Claim 30, further comprising:  
15                   integrating a cellular telephone with at least one such personal  
16 communication device.

1           34.   (original): A method according to Claim 30, wherein the one or  
2 more personal communication devices further comprise:  
3                   digitizing the voice messages;  
4                   storing transient voice messages, comprising:  
5                           assembling outgoing voice messages;  
6                           transitorily storing the outgoing voice messages; and  
7                           persistently storing saved voice messages.

1           35.   (original): A computer-readable storage medium holding code for  
2 performing the method according to Claim 30.

1           36.   (currently amended): An apparatus for providing flexible message-  
2 based communications with personal communication devices over a centralized  
3 messaging infrastructure, comprising:

4 means for originating digital voice messages comprising digitized voice  
5 through a plurality of personal communication devices;  
6 means for communicatively interfacing the one or more personal  
7 communication devices over a digital data network; and  
8 means for centrally processing the digital voice messages, comprising:  
9 means for receiving each digital voice message from at least one  
10 such personal communication device;  
11 means for transiently storing the digital voice message; and  
12 means for sending the digital voice message to at least one such  
13 personal communication device identified in the digital voice message.